



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Saints of God

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The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians (60-62 A.D.), Paul is imprisoned (one of four Prison Letters, the others being Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon) in Rome addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Philippi, the first founded by Paul in Europe. In this letter, Paul, having a fondness for the people of the church of Philippi, because of their faithfulness and generous nature, wanted to thank them for their gifts, letting them know why he was returning Epaphroditus to them, sharing his situation in prison, urging unity in church, and warning them against false teachers. While false doctrine had started to plague many of the churches, he wanted to provide encouragement for practical living and support for sound doctrine. While much of the letter deals with spiritual growth, the tone throughout is that there is joy in Christ and Paul rejoices in Christ being proclaimed regardless of his circumstance and that they also must conduct their lives, suffer, press on, live in harmony and contentment in and for Christ. Paul, the missionary, thanks the Philippian church, the saints, for their noble giving and provides a final farewell. (Php 4:20-23 NASB)

“Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (4:20)

Glory to our God and Father. Paul directs the Philippian church that their focus, worship and service are to be to our God alone and to His glory for eternity. Believers, Christians, are to give glory to God alone and not to anything or anyone else. Paul is single focused in his joy and service to and for Christ. Believers are designed to worship, serve and give God the glory. Who are saints?

“Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.” (4:21)

Believers in Christ are saints. The definition of a saint, (Gk ‘*hagios*’, pronounced hog-gee-oss, is one set apart, sanctified, Holy ones, consecrated) is a believer in Jesus Christ. Paul mentions this word 60 times in his epistles. Any one separated from sin through and in Christ is a saint. Believers are in Christ, a union with Christ.

Paul begins this letter addressing all the saints in the church as saints (1:1). A saint is not a super believer, one who is above other believers or one who is perceived to be closer to God. Paul is reminding the believers in Philippi that they are all saints, set apart in Christ. Paul likely wrote these final verses in his own hand as he had other of his letters. Paul not only greets the church in his name and those close to him but also in the name of others.

“All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household.”(4:22)

Saints are a family. Paul includes all of the believers or all of the saints in his greeting to the Philippian church. Many times Paul refers to ‘all’ as brethren. All believers are of one brotherhood, family or fellowship. Paul further illustrates his joy in Christ and the fellowship or brotherhood of the saints by sharing that especially those saints in Caesar’s household, the government workers, also greet them. Many of those workers or guards that had been exposed to Paul and the gospel, who subsequently became a believer or saint, greet the saints, family, in Philippi.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.” (4:23)

The saint is sustained by the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. The resource of the saints is the grace of Jesus Christ in their spirit. Paul consistently in this letter and his other letters prays for the unending grace of God to the saints. Paul finds that his unending joy in Christ is through Christ’s unending grace.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you give God the glory and honor that is His? Do it today.
- Have you accepted God’s gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ? If so, you are a saint and part of the Christian family.
- Do you respond with unending joy in Christ having been given unending grace from Christ?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44